



**West Virginia
Agricultural
Statistics**

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Office, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

January 31, 2005

WEST VIRGINIA SHEEP INVENTORY

WEST VIRGINIA -- All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2005, was 31,000 head, down 3,000 head from January 1, 2004.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 29,000 head on January 1, 2005, down 1,000 head from 2004. Ewes, one year and older, at 23,000 head, were down 2,000 head from 2004. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2004. Replacement lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2004.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005 totaled 2,000 head, down 2,000 head from January 1, 2004. Market lambs totaled 2,000 head, down 1,500 head from the previous year. Of these, 500 were under 65 pounds, 500 were 65 - 84 pounds, 500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The 2004 lamb crop totaled 29,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 116 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2004, compared to 138 in 2003.

Shorn wool production during 2004 was 134,000 pounds, down 16 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 24,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.43 per pound for a total value of \$58,000 dollars, up 29 percent from \$45,000 dollars in 2003.

WEST VIRGINIA -- Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2005 was estimated at 11,700 head. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 1,100 head. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES --All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total inventory. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep.

The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.80 per pound for a total value of \$29.9 million dollars, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million dollars in 2003.

All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 2.5 million head. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.1 million head and **market goats** totaled 0.4 million head. On January 1, 2005, **meat and all other goats** totaled 1.97 million head, **milk goats** totaled 283,500 head and **angora goats** totaled 274,000 head. The 2004 **kid crop** was 1.67 million head for all goats.

Mohair production in the United States during 2004 was 1.94 million pounds. **Goats and kids clipped** totaled 269,500 head. Average weight per clip was 7.2 pounds. **Mohair price** was \$1.97 per pound with a value of 3.8 million dollars.